

5

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10 An exchange capable of easily switching
communication modes for gradually shifting all exchanges
to ATM exchanges without requiring manual intervention in
a network with frame relay exchanges and ATM exchanges
mixed therein. This exchange is provided with an ATM side
bus and a frame side bus provided in parallel, a
15 frame/cell compatibility function unit inserted in the
ATM side bus, and a frame/cell switch unit for
alternatively switching between the ATM side bus and the
frame side bus. This frame/cell compatibility function
unit is comprised of an ATM switch and a frame/cell
20 format converting unit connected with this ATM switch.